

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on November 17, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1 and 25 are amended, claims 6, 11, 15-23, and 26-44 are canceled, and claims 45 is added; as a result, claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-14, 24, 25 and 45 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 was objected to because of the following informalities: The dependency of claim 12 is improper because claim 11 has been cancelled by the Amendment filed on 8/14/06.

Appropriate correction has been made in the above listing of the claims.

Allowed, Objected to, and Withdrawn Claims

The Examiner has deemed claims 10, 12-14, and 24 allowed and claims 6 and 9 allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 10, 12-14 and 24 were allowed and the Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject matter in dependent claims 6 and 9.

Accordingly, in the interest of bringing this case more quickly to issuance, Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claim 6 into independent claims 1 and 25 making claims 1 and 25 allowable. Applicant has also provided new claim 45 that includes the subject matter of claim 9.

Applicant has removed his previous amended language to claims 1 and 25, since the Examiner had deemed claim 6 allowable with such a limitation. Applicant has also canceled the claims that were withdrawn in this case. Accordingly, Applicant believes that all claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration and such action is respectfully requested.

§ 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 25 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,835,297). Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element and limitation of independent claims 1 and 25, as amended, is not present in the Inoue reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of independent claims 1 and 25, as amended, as well as those claims that depend therefrom.

§ 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,835,297) as applied to claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 25. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Claim 5 depends from independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of dependent claim 5.



CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Gregg W. Wisdom at (360) 212-8052.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: **MS AF** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 12th day of January, 2007.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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Date: 1/12/07